



Corrections News

The Alabama Department of Corrections

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Riley Visits Overcrowded Prisons

On a gloomy, wet Tuesday in August Governor Bob Riley toured two of Alabama's overcrowded prisons. Although little more than a quick glance, the tour gave Riley an opportunity to see first hand the conditions faced daily by Alabama correctional officers and inmates alike.

Shortly after taking office in 2003, Riley visited Holman and Fountain Correctional Facilities in Atmore. Tuesday, he toured Alabama's only level six facility, William E. Donaldson, located in West Jefferson County. Riley spent more than an hour and a half with officers, support staff and inmates, asking numerous questions in an attempt to grasp the inner workings of a maximum-security prison. It started at the front gate where the Governor inquired about the plexi-glass walkway separating those who enter from the razor wire and electric fence. Warning signs foretelling danger are more than noticeable. Riley seemed

surprised to learn that the electric fence is lethal. "Is that hot," Riley asked. "Yes sir, it's lethal," answered Warden Stephen Bullard. "Lethal?" Riley responded in a questioning manner.

Once inside Riley commented on the clean central hallway, freshly painted after a welcome donation from a local vendor. In the back of the prison two metal-sided dorms with rows of steel bunk beds house more than 130 inmates each. In all, there are five such dorms. It's not a setting one would picture for a maximum-security prison. Donaldson, completed in 1982 and designed to house 700 medium and minimum-security inmates, now houses almost 1,600 men, including some of Alabama's most infamous criminals. Twenty-three are on death row, including convicted cop killer Mario Sentobie. Holman prison houses the bulk of Alabama's death row inmates.

At Donaldson, just two officers are often assigned to these two hot, sheet metal dorms with almost 260 inmates inside. One officer remains in a secure, central cube with

elevated visual observation of both dorms. The other officer, male or female, must serve as a rover, spending time in each dorm. With so many inmates in a warehouse type facility, it is impossible for the roving officer to maintain sight lines from the front of the dorm to the rear. This creates obvious security hazards. The cube officer and a radio serve as the rover's immediate back up. Should something happen, other officers will hopefully arrive in time.

Riley talked to staff about the duties, difficulties and dangers faced on the inside each and every day, not only for correctional officers but for support person-

nel as well. He also listened to inmates and how many feel they've been wronged by the justice system. Most who had hoped to speak with the Governor failed. His tour had to keep pace. Riley did spend a few moments with an inmate artist. The balding man used chalk to draw a beautiful, pastel picture of a child. A baby one could only imagine is the man's own daughter. A baby girl you can rest assured he rarely receives visits from.

The Governor stopped in the kitchen looking at numerous black ovens, charred, rusty, old and obviously overworked. These ovens help cook more than 1500 meals, three times a day, 365 days a year. Inmates are working in the kitchen around the clock, no holidays, no vacations. The ovens work triple time and are in need of replacement. Riley could not pass up a freshly baked square of warm cornbread. He also shared a slap on the back and smile with the aging inmate cook.

Next stop Donaldson's segregation unit. In this particular building small buckets line the floor and stairwell.



Riley could not pass up a freshly baked square of warm cornbread. He also shared a slap on the back and smile with the aging inmate cook from Donaldson.

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Buckets placed in strategic locations to catch leaking rain water. Donaldson has long been in the need of a new roof, but estimates to replace it have topped \$2 million. A new roof, new ovens and more prison bed space to house inmates are all needed, but in cash strapped Alabama the ADOC budget does not contain enough funds.

Lack of proper funding is one of many challenges faced by the ADOC. A lack of personnel, both security and support, causes problems as well. Under-staffed officers sometimes work 16-hour shifts, often including mandatory overtime. They have barely eight hours to travel home, shower, and rest before reporting back to work. Employee burnout and retention are dilemmas constantly faced by the Alabama Department of Corrections. On average the department loses more than 20 officers a month to everything from a better paying job, to retirement. "How do you make this work?" asked the Governor. "What do you do if something happens?" "We make it work because this man, this man and this man are good at what they do," answered Bullard, referring to each correctional officer. "We have some of the best trained officers in the state." Alabama officers are actually some of the most well trained correctional professionals in the country.

Certified by the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, the officers complete a 12-week course at the Corrections Academy in Selma, with an additional 40 hours of in-service training per year.

Professionalism, dedication, loyalty and maybe most importantly, communication skills help hold things together at Donaldson. "I think it went well," said Bullard, referring to Riley's visit. "He got a chance to see some of our problems, mostly structural. I am not sure he understands the need for staff at this prison but he seemed genuinely concerned."

On the same cloudy Tuesday Riley stopped at ADOC's Birmingham Work Center. This small facility in downtown Birmingham houses almost 300 minimum security and community custody females. Female inmates are being transferred here in order for the state to remain compliant with a federal court order at Tutwiler Prison for women. More than 130 of Alabama's female inmates remain housed out of state. Most female inmates at Birmingham hold free world jobs, paying 40% of their paychecks back to ADOC as a means of helping pay for their own incarceration. Governor Riley showed interest in many of the inmate stories. He gave one young inmate his personal business card and asked her to keep in touch. "What can we do to keep you from coming back?" the Governor asked. "Oh, this is it for me," the inmate said.

Birmingham Warden Steve Watson said he felt the Governor's visit was well received. "I think it speaks volumes for him to visit," Watson said. "I wish he had brought some legislators with him so they can actually see what we are faced with regarding shortage of staff and overcrowding."

Governor Riley will visit more Alabama prisons in the coming weeks. ■

—BRIAN CORBETT, PIO ADOC/AUGUST 11, 2004

Seeing Is Believing Legislators Should See Need For Sentencing Reform

BIRMINGHAM NEWS EDITORIAL/ AUGUST 20, 2004

"Until you walk through it, you really don't understand what the facilities are like," Gov. Bob Riley said as he toured four state prisons this week.

What he saw was too many prisoners, in too cramped space, guarded by too few corrections officers. "We've got to do something about the number of inmates," he said.

Alabama legislators, who budget the money that state prisons operate on and pass the laws that send offenders to prison, should make similar visits to the state lockups. Maybe they would come away with a greater appreciation for the need for sentencing reform.

Riley is a believer. A week after visiting Donaldson prison in western Jefferson County and the Birmingham Work Release Center, the governor spent four hours Monday in four prisons in Elmore County. With his prison commissioner, Donal Campbell, at his side, Riley saw 356 men at Staton prison packed like sardines in a windowless sheetmetal building that used to be canning factory. At times, he was told, there's only one officer to watch over the convicts.

Despite the progress the state has made since Riley took office less than two years ago - under the gun of federal and state courts - Alabama prisons remain dangerously overcrowded and understaffed. Some 23,600 inmates are still crammed into space for 12,400.

Riley has reduced prison crowding by speeding up paroles, expanding community corrections and sending some inmates to private, out-of-state prisons. But more needs to be done: more drug and mental health treatment programs, more work release and more community-based options.

And, of course, the state must move forward with common-sense changes in how judges mete out punishment. The Legislature can do that by passing into law the recommendations of the Alabama Sentencing Commission.

The commission spent four years examining sentencing in the state, reviewing some 14,000 criminal cases. It found that sentences can range widely for the same crime, that sentences handed out hardly resemble actual times served, and that habitual offender laws needlessly lock up some nonviolent offenders for long periods.

The commission's recommendations are designed to bring more consistency, honesty and fairness through new voluntary sentencing guidelines. They would lower minimum sentence ranges for certain crimes and tighten them for others, while not changing sentences for more serious crimes such as murder, rape and robbery.

It is a smart form of truth in sentencing.

Alabama's prison system didn't get in such wretched shape by state officials being smart. And lawmakers weren't truthful to the people of this state about how their tough-on-crime laws helped fuel the explosion in the prison population.

They have a chance to change that. Riley sees that. Lawmakers need to see it, too, even if it means having to spend some time behind bars. ■



Gov. Riley inspects rainwater leaking through the roof at the Donaldson facility.

Governor Riley Visits Alabama Prisons: Donaldson, Draper, Staton, Elmore Tutwiler.

BRIAN CORBETT, PIO ADOC/8-16-04

Alabama's prison system has problems, from petty inmate complaints to major structural deficiencies. However, no problem is more glaring than the abundance of inmates compared to the severe shortage of correctional staff. Over the past two decades Alabama's inmate population has grown on average by more than 1,000 inmates per year, from little more than 5,000 in 1980, to more than 28,400 in 2003. State budgets for prisons have simply not kept pace with this population explosion.

Thanks to an increased effort by the Board of Pardons and Paroles some 2,000 inmates have left the system over the past year. Still, more than 26,000 inmates are housed in facilities originally designed to hold less than half that number, thus the root of the problem.

In an attempt to see first hand the difficulties faced by corrections professionals Governor Bob Riley has taken a mini tour. In less than a week Riley visited six Alabama prisons. "It gives me an idea to see it, to touch it. It gives me a sense of what to do," Riley said. The Governor's first stop Monday was the Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women. Female inmates at Tutwiler filed a class action lawsuit against the state in 2002. A settlement agreement in federal court is now complete. By November the population at Tutwiler's main campus must be reduced from 750 to 700 or below. 138 female inmates remain incarcerated out-of-state at South Louisiana Correctional Center in Basile, LA. The state currently has few options for housing additional females. "We are exploring all options to live within the court mandate. We are going to do that," Riley said.

After viewing most all areas of Tutwiler the Governor complimented Warden Gladys Deese and her staff on the cleanliness and professionalism at the facility.

U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson also praised Deese in his opinion granting the settlement agreement. "I think they have done an exceptional job with the staff they have here," Riley said. "I can't say it's overcrowded but it is clean and neat." Later, Riley approached the warden. "What can I do to help you?" he asked. "Get us some more money," replied Warden Deese.



From the penthouse level, Gov. Riley and Comm. Campbell view the old ACI canning plant at Staton that was recently refurbished into a compact 356 bed dormitory.

After visiting Tutwiler Riley made three more stops in Elmore County, touring Draper, Staton and Elmore Correctional Facilities.

Draper opened in 1938 and is the state's oldest male penitentiary, currently housing more than 12-hundred inmates.

Riley greeted officers, administrative staff and questioned Warden James DeLoach about the prison's farm operations, growing tomatoes and raising cattle. Riley also held several conversations with inmates asking one how he landed in the faith-based dorm.

"I decided to change my life," said the inmate. "Did you go to church before coming here?" asked the Governor. "No Sir," the inmate answered. Another inmate asked for more rehabilitative programs so others like him "can get an opportunity."

Staton Correctional Facility provides one of the worst examples of the state's overcrowding problems. During Riley's tour the facility housed 1,372 inmates with only 17 Correctional Officers on duty.

Warden Willie Thomas once served as an officer at Staton. Years ago as Thomas began his career the prison operated with only 400 inmates. At that time, Staton employed 30 more officers than they are currently budgeted to hire.

In the back of the prison, G-dorm, an old sheet-metal canning factory is now converted living space, housing 356 inmates. Steel frame bunk beds are stacked six rows deep and extend the length of the dorm. 356 men live in this one unit alone, with numerous exhaust fans along the ceiling sucking hot air out. The fans and a limited supply of ice is their only relief from heat on sweltering summer days. From high atop an officer's post the sight is both intimidating and depressing. If any dorm in the Alabama system screams overcrowding this is it. Officers must work in the same stressful conditions, leading to employee burnout and retention problems for ADOC. At times, only one correctional officer is assigned to rove G-dorm, with a second observing from his elevated post. Such conditions create security hazards for officers, inmates and ultimately the general public. Asked when Alabama prisons will become air-conditioned Riley responded, "Probably not in my lifetime."

In the early evening Governor Riley made his final stop of the day at Elmore Correctional Facility. What seemed like hundreds of inmates were outside on the yard, some playing volleyball, others basketball and even more watching the Governor's every move. Warden Charles Hadley explained the inmate's daily routine, which begins with breakfast at 3:30 a.m. A Captain, asked how he would

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First Hand Look

The Governor Tours ADOC Facilities

Gov. Bob Riley has been touring Alabama's overcrowded prisons recently, getting a first-hand look at the conditions that understaffed corrections officers have to face each workday.

At the Staton Correctional Facility in Elmore, Riley looked out over a windowless building that used to be a canning factory, but which is now packed with 356 prisoners and their cots. He asked Corrections Commissioner Donal Campbell the obvious question: "If something did break out, what do you do?" "The officers leave. That's the safest thing to do," Campbell said. That may sound callous, but with sometimes just one officer and seldom more than a handful to watch that huge room, there is little that corrections officers could do if a major disturbance broke out.

That potential scenario is repeated in many places in Alabama's overcrowded and often outdated prison facilities, which hold twice what they were designed to handle.

Despite efforts to reduce the state's prison population, including the doubling of the size of the state parole board last year, only modest reductions have been made in the number of prisoners in the state's major facilities such as Staton.

The expedited parole hearings have helped to reduce the number of inmates under the jurisdiction of the Corrections Department, dropping the total number of inmates from 28,142 in July 2003 to 26,496 last month. But many of those who gained early paroles were already in work centers and other alternative programs, so the impact on crowding in major institutions has been much more limited.

In July 2003, there were 20,986 inmates in the state's major institutions, which were designed to hold just 10,415. In July 2004, that number had declined only to 20,770. The occupancy rate for major institutions dipped only from 201 percent in July 2003 to 199 percent last month.

Riley told the Birmingham News that his most serious concern was the number of inmates per corrections officer. He's right to be concerned. Alabama has only about half the number of officers it needs.

Alabama has the lowest cost per inmate of any state corrections system in the nation. Saving taxpayer money is a good thing, but only up to a point the point where the safety of corrections officers, inmates and even potentially the public is placed at risk.

The governor is right: the state has to do something to reducing prison crowding and to increase the number of corrections officers. With more funds, community programs can be increased and alternative programs explored. But in the end, the state simply has to spend more to house prisoners safely or reduce the number of prisoners.

None of the decisions facing the governor and the Legislature is likely to be popular, but the status quo invites disaster. ■

—EDITORIAL/MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER 8/19/04



(Top)—Governor Riley views inmate drawing and wares at Donaldson and Staton.
(Bottom)—Governor Riley enters Donaldson with Warden Stephen Bullard.



A.D.O.C.: THE GUIDED TOUR

(Left)—Draper Warden James DeLoach discusses the prison's inmate population with Governor Riley as a reporter takes notes.

(Right)—Warden Charles Hadley answers questions regarding Elmore CF.



(Left)—Governor Riley samples spaghetti at Draper.

(Right)—Warden Willie Thomas and Governor Riley walk through the Staton yard.



(Left)—Riley asked questions about SAP class at Draper.

(Right)—The Governor and Commissioner tour Tutwiler's Library with Warden Deese.



(Left)—Warden Deese explains dorm arrangements to the Governor.

(Right)—Governor Riley views Tutwiler's honor dorm with Comm. Campbell and Warden Deese.



Don't Be A HOG... Be A P.I.G. !

Partners In Giving



Dear ADOC Employees,

The notion of partnership between our department and our communities across the state takes on a very special meaning when it comes to our annual State Combined Campaign. Our support of vitally needed services touches the lives of thousands of people – our families, friends, and neighbors – and lets them know we care. These ser-

vices address some very real problems and issues such as literacy, AIDS, teen pregnancy, child care, substance abuse, elderly care, health care, and more.

I support the SCC because I believe in it. It is one of the most effective ways to care and help people in need. All participating charities are certified by state employee committees as meeting the requirements of the law. You can designate specifically to the charities you wish to receive your contributions, and you can spread your gift over the entire year by using payroll deduction. To maximize the impact of every contribution, campaign administration expenses are kept as low as possible. Expenses are relatively fixed in that revenues could increase greatly with only a small dollar increase in overhead.

Here are a few facts you may not know. There are approximately 37,000 state employees. If every state employee gave just \$2.50 a month (\$30 annually), we could raise over \$1 million for the much needed and relied upon agencies who provide services from before we are born until after death. That says a lot! And though you may never have the services of an organization supported through the State Combined Campaign, it is more than likely you or someone close to you will.

Here are just a few examples of the purchasing power of your donation: \$48 will buy 1 mandatory dental exam for 5 patients awaiting kidney transplants; \$52 will buy 30 hot meals for senior citizens; \$104 will provide milk for one month for 20 abused and neglected children; \$156 will provide a dialysis patient with five days of transportation to dialysis or one month of medication. The examples are endless.

Again this year we are asking you to participate in our annual SCC, helping address the most pressing needs of our communities. Help us make a difference. Thanks to you and your support, we will enjoy a healthier, happier way of life.

Sincerely,

Donal Campbell
Commissioner

Strategic Planning Committee

It is with great pride that I announce the results of the Strategic Planning Committee that commenced on May 19, 2004 and shall continue meeting as needed. The committee has accomplished great work and established a new direction for our department.

Deputy Commissioner John Jacobs has been appointed to lead the broad spectrum of ADOC employees who makeup this committee. They have developed the Mission and Value Statements, which shall propel this department toward a new horizon.

Our Mission Statement:

The mission of the Alabama Department of Corrections is to confine, manage and provide rehabilitative programs for convicted felons in a safe, secure and humane environment, utilizing professionals who are committed to public safety and to the positive re-entry of offenders into society.

Our Values:

- We value ADOC's employees as our most valuable asset.
- We value a safe, secure and rehabilitative environment for the inmate population.
- We value upholding the public trust and a positive public image, emphasizing professionalism, honesty and integrity.
- We value the dignity of every human being.
- We value leadership, which promotes a safe, fair and equitable work environment.
- We value operating in the most effective and economically efficient manner possible.
- We value the ethical conduct of all ADOC's employees.
- We value sharing information, innovation and communication among all levels of staff.
- We value professional working relationships among employees and opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Please join me as we embrace these values and mission statement so that our shared vision of a renewed Department of Corrections may be acknowledged and recognized by all. ■

Settlement Approved In Lawsuit Over Conditions At Tutwiler

BY SAMIRA JAFARI/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ 8-24-2004—

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) -- A federal judge has approved a settlement of a lawsuit to revamp medical care and living conditions at Tutwiler prison for women in Wetumpka, which the court once called a "ticking time bomb."

U.S. District Court Judge Myron Thompson ruled that the settlement between attorneys for inmates and the Department of Corrections properly avoids a trial and calls for essential improvements, including a safer, less crowded living space.

Thompson, in an order signed Monday, said the settlement will not make the women's prison facilities "comfortable or pleasant places, but it will afford class members the basic necessities mandated by the United States Constitution."

He approved the pact after hearing from 81 inmates and after he visited the women's prison twice in the past two years. Most of the inmates' concerns focused on the unbearable heat within the prison, a lack of attention for their medical needs and "their substantial risk of serious physical violence," Thompson stated.

The judge said many of the inmates have told him they are skeptical the prison system will carry out the improvements. But he said he was "very encouraged" that the prison already has become less crowded and better ventilated.

The settlement calls for better access to a doctor and mental health expert for inmates, and monitoring by attorneys and advocates from the Southern Center for Human Rights for four years.

The Southern Center, an Atlanta-based nonprofit law firm, filed the lawsuit in 2002 when Tutwiler had more than 1,000 women in a space built for about 360. Thompson visited the Wetumpka lockup, called it a "ticking time bomb" and ruled it unconstitutional in December 2002.

The agreement requires DOC to lower the number of prisoners to 700 by November, a figure Tutwiler has been approaching in recent months. If the number rises, the state would have to add officers.

DOC spokesman Brian Corbett said the department is confident it will be able to abide by the terms of the agreement.

"I think the mere fact that this is a settlement agreement that we've agreed to and can be held in contempt of is assurance that we will abide by (it)," he said.

Gretchen Rohr, one of the attorneys representing the prisoners, said despite the improvements promised in the settlement, there is still plenty of room for improvement on the part of the DOC.

"Generally this settlement agreement is affording the women basic constitutional rights," she said. "The settlement agreement does not make Tutwiler an amazing place to be."

Rohr and Corbett both point to overcrowding as a key element to be addressed.

"The root of the problem at Tutwiler and most of these lawsuits stems from trying to put 26,000 inmates in a space that holds 12,500," Corbett said. ■

Settling Cases: Prison Agreements Avoid Costly Court Battles

BIRMINGHAM NEWS EDITORIAL/ THURSDAY, JULY 01, 2004

State prison officials are on an incredible run. In a little more than a month, they have settled three serious and potentially costly and lengthy lawsuits over conditions at state prisons for men and women.

The settlements come with reasonable terms for the state and modest costs, considering the condition of the prisons and what could have happened if the cases had dragged on for years in the courts.

The latest settlement involves prisoners at Tutwiler, the state's prison for women. The Atlanta-based Southern Center for Human Rights sued the state in 2002 on behalf of inmates because of deplorable, dangerously crowded conditions at the Wetumpka lockup.

At the time, Tutwiler had 1,000 inmates in space designed for only 360. It also had the highest rate of violent acts among inmates, making it the most dangerous prison in Alabama. U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson ruled conditions at the prison - a "ticking time bomb," he said - were unconstitutional.

Since then, the state has worked to relieve the crowding and the unsafe conditions. The state shipped 300 inmates to a private prison in Louisiana and expanded the Board of Pardons and Paroles to speed up the parole of inmates. Today, Tutwiler houses about 700 inmates.

The agreement announced this week - which Thompson still must approve - should go further to improve conditions at Tutwiler. The Department of Corrections agreed to improve medical and mental health care and inmates' access to classes and drug treatment. Inmates also will get more ice, fans and showers to deal with the sweltering heat in the prison.

Most important, though, is that the care of inmates and the conditions within the prison will be monitored for the next four years by a doctor, a mental health expert and lawyers and advocates from the Southern Center.

Without such monitoring, there's no guarantee the prison system will hold up its end in making and sustaining the improvements. The state has an abysmal record when it comes to prisoners' care.

The Tutwiler agreement is similar to those reached in lawsuits brought on behalf of inmates at the St. Clair men's prison and at the Limestone prison where men infected with HIV/AIDS are housed. In those cases, prison officials agreed to substantial, common-sense changes that should improve prison conditions and inmates' health care, and for outside monitors to track those improvements.

The good news for taxpayers is that the improvements will likely come with a modest price tag, though the exact costs to comply with the agreements, including attorneys' fees, haven't been figured.

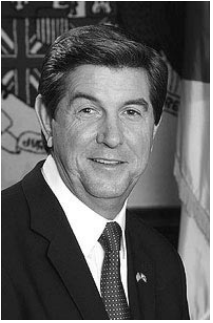
Credit Gov. Bob Riley's administration, including prison Commissioner Donal Campbell, for seeking to settle what could have been difficult and costly court battles. In the past, the state has unwisely fought losing court battles over prisons and other inadequate state services. It's encouraging this administration is taking a smarter approach.

But also credit the Southern Center for Human Rights. Its willingness to reach agreement with the state proves its focus is on improving prison conditions for inmates, not enriching lawyers. ■



Keeping Focused on the War Against Terrorism

by Governor Bob Riley



Earlier this month I sent Alabama Homeland Security Director Jim Walker to an intelligence conference at CIA headquarters. This was the first conference of its kind where homeland security officials from all over the United States were brought together to discuss the latest intelligence about our nation's war against terrorists.

In Director Walker's briefings to me after the conference, I was struck at how far-reaching and comprehensive our efforts to make America safer have been to date. As a nation, we have mobilized the federal government, every state and territory, counties, cities, and all of our public safety activities to defeat an enemy determined to shake our resolve and destroy our way of life. As I reflected on what I learned from these briefings, I was reminded of three essential facts about the world we live in post-9/11.

First, we are truly at war. The threat to the survival of our country is as real as it was during World War II and the Cold War.

Second, the most important asset in America's war against terrorism is the individual citizen. We are now sharing more intelligence information with the American public than at any other time in our nation's history. We do this because there are terrorists living among us here in America, and because an informed public is the best weapon against the terrorists. Several suspected terrorists were apprehended in the past few weeks thanks to the actions of individuals who reported suspicious behavior to law enforcement authorities. Not only did the actions of these brave people result in arrests, they also led authorities to valuable information about the terrorists' plans and intentions - information that is helpful in preventing future attacks.

Third, too few Americans have prepared themselves for a possible terror attack in the future. In a recent national poll, 74 percent of Americans surveyed said terrorism is now a part of the fabric of American life, yet less than a third said they have taken actions to prepare their families for an attack.

Each of us has a responsibility to our family to prepare for a terrorist attack, even if it is as modest as having a plan on how to contact each other in the event of an attack. We each have a responsibility to our communities and our nation to report suspicious activities. We have a responsibility at work to protect our fellow workers and our workplace by knowing who and what is entering our stores, schools, farms and factories.

We will win the war on terror, but it is going to take time and it will take a concerted effort by all of us to do it. If we stay prepared and alert, we make it so much harder for the terrorists to hide among us and to carry out their evil plans.

As your Governor, I can say the state is doing everything it can to keep terrorism and terrorists out of Alabama. One example of our efforts is a training exercise I witnessed just a few days ago. Some 80 law enforcement officers from throughout the state were going through an intense training session on how to detect bombs hidden in vehicles. Alabama is also one of only two states in the nation that has the authority to use specially trained State Troopers to enforce federal immigration law. Alabama is the first state to establish its own cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security. This department coordinates statewide efforts to prevent, protect against and respond to terrorism in Alabama, in addition to overseeing the distribution of federal homeland security grant dollars to our local law enforcement and first responders.

The state and the nation have done much to thwart terror attacks, but we must all work together. Please get involved, be prepared and stay informed. Together, we will win the war against terrorists. ■

Alabama Prison Arts & Education Project

Dear Supporters,

I am pleased to inform you that there have been some significant changes in prison programming here in Alabama. The organization that you knew as The Alabama Prison Arts Initiative is now the Alabama Prison Arts & Education Project (APAEP).

We felt that the change in name encompassed the broader aspects of our projects—and would help the community at large have a better understanding of our program.

In addition, the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University has given the program a new presence by establishing a full-time administrative director position. I began working in that aspect in the middle of May of this year. APAEP is housed at Pebble Hill and falls under programming for the Center for the Arts & Humanities, the outreach office of the College of Liberal Arts.

We have had some major successes within the past year. The National Endowment of the Arts granted us \$20,000 for programming, which covered classes, supplies and visiting writers for this past year. Several of our students from the men's and women's facilities had poems selected to appear in *Sojourn*—the literary journal of the University of Texas at Dallas. And one of our students at Tutwiler Prison for Women received a continuing education scholarship through the University of Alabama.

This past year also saw the expansion of our program into the Frank Lee Youth Center, a minimum-security men's facility in Deatsville, AL. This is the first time we have offered classes in a men's facility. Poet and AU doctoral student Katherine Perry has begun teaching at Tutwiler. And this summer, professor, interior designer and artist Paula Frances Peek has joined us for our first drawing courses. We are also planning to work with L.I.F.E. Tech, a transitional facility for women, to start some course-work. The ongoing support of the Alabama Department of Corrections and now, the Alabama State Board of Pardons and Paroles, allows us to offer the classes.

We are growing indeed!

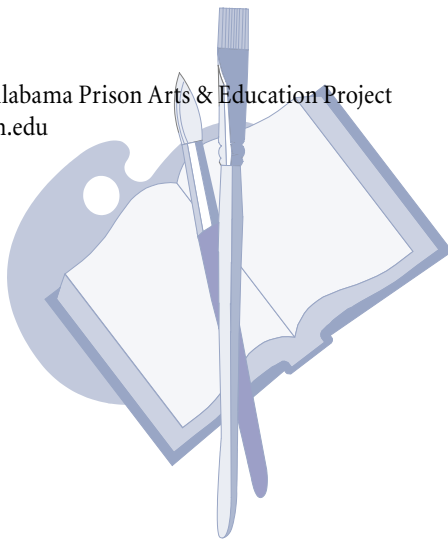
Our continued success with the library project is indicated by the more than 3500 volumes donated thus far into four libraries. We continue to accept donations, and they can be sent to our address here at Pebble Hill.

Thank you for your support of the Alabama Prison Arts & Education Project. Whether in time, money or generous shipments of books, your support is so important to our success.

Sincerely,

Kyes Stevens

Director of the Alabama Prison Arts & Education Project
stevemk@auburn.edu
334.844.8946 ■



What Is the Alabama Prison Arts and Education Project ?

The Alabama Prison Arts and Education Project (APAEP) is a relatively new but rapidly developing program. The project began approximately four years ago. Many writers and classes later, the project has been hosted in Tutwiler Prison for Women and Annex, Frank Lee Youth Center (minimum-security facility for all aged males), two work release units, and plans to work with the L.I.F.E Tech facility of Pardons and Paroles starting in the fall of 2004.

—APAEP is driven by the belief that arts and humanities education should be available to everyone.

—APAEP believes that education can provide a framework for individuals to improve their writing and cognitive skills, as well as develop a creative voice.

—APAEP believes that people, given an opportunity, will try to expand their knowledge and that this is empowering.

—APAEP believes in the power of words and the power of art and the power of curiosity to transform.

—APAEP believes that Auburn University can make a difference.

The Apaep Currently Sponsors:

- Tri-semester classes based in American studies, visual arts, creative writing and workshops with visiting writers

- Publication of annual anthologies of participant writings & art

- Library development. More than 3500 volumes have been donated from around the country thus far.

- Visitation day art program sponsored by Aid to Inmate Mothers. Artists will include Auburn University Art Department faculty and students.

- Funding has totaled approximately \$45,000 over the last four years from Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Alabama Humanities Foundation, and The National Endowment for the Arts. Major funding this year from the Center's first NEA grant. ■

Finding Love Inside

MINISTRIES TEACH FATHERHOOD CLASSES

CARLA CROWDER NEWS STAFF WRITER—

To hear Archie Hamlett tell it, fatherhood endures in his world because of big blue mailboxes on street corners. Prison is his world, a place where mothers would rather not bring their babies, even in celebration of Father's Day.

As America's prison population grows, so does the number of minor children with a parent in prison. It's usually a father. Hamlett has little hope to ever toss a football with his three sons or teach them long division. He's in Donaldson Correctional Facility in west Jefferson County on a life-without-parole sentence for stealing things and dealing drugs.

But he's still a dad. And the U.S. Postal Service can find him behind the razor wire. So there's no stopping the letters, now that his boys know to drop them in the blue mailboxes. Hamlett shared his advice with other imprisoned fathers during a session of a prison program, Long Distance Dads.

"When you write, put a self-addressed, stamped envelope in there. I'm telling you, that's what you do. I've been doing it since my son was 8," said Hamlett, 33, of Huntsville, who has a wide smile and a gentle leadership style.

He took the class three years ago and now helps teach it. Prisoners at several Alabama lockups, most of whom had little contact with their own fathers, enroll in the classes, aimed at making them better fathers and breaking the criminal cycle.

The U.S. Department of Justice reported in 1999 that 1.4 million minor children had incarcerated fathers, a 58 percent increase since 1991. Among black children, the numbers are worse - 7 percent have a parent in prison, compared with 2 percent of young children nationwide.

Given generational trends, people who work with prisoners are concerned about what this means for the future.

"There are some interesting statistics that indicate the children of prisoners are now being incarcerated. With two million prisoners in America, you're talking about a lot of children," said Miree Tolbert, executive director of Potter's Hands, a ministry connected with Briarwood Presbyterian Church whose volunteers lead Donaldson's fatherhood classes.

Most of the men in the 13-week session that recently ended at Donaldson start fatherhood from scratch. "Most of them have terrible relationships or no relationships at all," said Richard Condrey, an ex-Marine, retired engineer and Briarwood volunteer at Donaldson.

The prisoners' fathers usually were mysterious creatures whom someone might point out on the street, men more likely to offer them booze than a hug. So they grew up filling the father void with rebellion, drugs, quick money, violence.

Hamlett's father was married to someone other than his mother and rarely visited. "My mother had me thinking he didn't want to have anything to do

with me," Hamlett said. Ernie Pulley, 36, another class leader, grew up feeling like he was mostly in the way. "I have five stepdads. My dad left when I was five. All my life I've tried to find my real dad," said Pulley, a short man with tattoos on his forearms.

He has a 14-year-old son, a 13-year-old daughter and a wife who doesn't want them exposed to prison. He's seen his children once in eight years.

Like Hamlett, Pulley is an avid letter-writer, inspired in part by his discovery at 19 of a stash of letters from his father that his mother had hidden away. Hopefully, "they'll snoop through my wife's stuff and find my letters and feel differently about me," Pulley said with a smile.

He's serving life without parole for murder.

Questions and answers

Long Distance Dad classes are taught in Donaldson's sunny chapel. Thurs-

day mornings, the men sit on white plastic chairs and gather around small tables to review lessons from their folders. There are worksheets that urge the men to think about their own fathers, their childhoods, their personalities.

Inmate Quentin Truss, who is baffled about how to be a good father to his daughters, is one of the most engaged students. The 31-year-old from Talladega has three girls, 5, 9, and 11. He peppers Hamlett with scenarios illustrating the hopelessness of staying in touch with the girls because their mothers have been made bitter by his actions. "It always be this and that, what you did," Truss says, frustrated.

Yet his worksheets were meticulously filled in.

Question: What is one area you wish your father was more involved with?

Truss wrote: "take me to park, swing, basketball games, football games, take me to 6 flags when I was young."

Question: Differences and Similarities between you and your father? Truss wrote: "Both of us like partying, selling drugs when young. Both of us have been depart from our kids for a period 10 years or better when growing up . . . I like rap music, he don't."

Classes drift from pep talks, to gripe sessions, to lectures on responsibility. In Tolbert's view, the last item is key. There is no room for mature men, prisoners even, to blame others for their actions. "I think one of the major outcomes of this program, particularly for the offenders, the fathers, is that in numerous cases the fathers took responsibility for the harms they have caused," said Tolbert, who worked with the nationwide Prison Fellowship 15 years. "Without that appropriate view of their situation, there can seldom be any ongoing relationship developed."

The highlight comes at the end of the term. Every man records a videotaped message for their children, and the tapes are mailed well before Father's Day. "The videos show up, and Daddy's a movie star," said Hamlett, who organizes the taping. They try to make it nice and professional with a stage decorated with house plants.

No scripts

There are no scripts but a lot of heart-wrenching rambling as well as the expected fatherly advice, or what the guys probably think is fatherly advice, as they never got much. Get your lessons, they say. Take care of your mother. Stay

cont'd on pg. 19

Family Courts— No. 1 Perpetrator of Fatherlessness

Dear Editor: "Alabama's new attorney general plans to get tough on criminals who target families". Well this is good news but why aren't family court judges on this list? Let's face it, if you are going to address crimes against the family how can you overlook the neo-fascist, social engineers that plague the benches of Alabama Family Courts? You know, the ones who violate a parent's God-given and constitutionally protected rights to be parents. The ones who deny children equal access to both their parents after a divorce and are determined to criminalize fatherhood. One item that AG Troy King listed on his agenda is "child abuse and exploitation". Well Mr. King, I believe family court would be the logical starting point. This is by far the best place to find children exploited to fill state coffers with federal child support incentive dollars by instituting Adolph Hitler's child of the state doctrine. When it is known fact that fatherlessness in America is the No. 1 social ill to our children, and that family courts are the No. 1 perpetrator of fatherlessness, maybe this should be No. 1 on your agenda.

ALAN RUSMISEL, VICE PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER, ALABAMA COALITION FOR FATHERS AND CHILDREN/HOMEWOOD, AL—JULY 09, 2004 ■

DRAPER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY'S SUMMER INSTITUTIONAL INVITATIONAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

On June 26, 2004 Warden James Deloach at Draper Correctional Facility hosted their summer institutional invitational softball tournament. Teams from Staton C/F, Kilby C/F, Elmore C/F, Frank Lee and Red Eagle Honor participated in the event. The competition was fierce and very competitive. The Teams were very organized and displayed great sportsmanship.

In any event there must always be winners and losers, but because of the foresight and thoughtfulness of Warden Deloach, everyone that participated was truly rewarded with pride and honor representing their institutions.

Of course the winners would have an opportunity to carry home a beautiful trophy.

After the dusk settled, Staton Correctional Facility was awarded the First Place Trophy. Red Eagle Honor Farm was presented the Second Place Trophy. ■



Staton Correctional Facility was awarded the First Place Trophy

Red Eagle Honor Farm was presented the Second Place Trophy.

Inmates Graduate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Six inmates at the Bibb County Correctional Facility in Brent graduated from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Extension Center System on May 27 and received certificates of ministry.

"This was an historic occasion," said Dr. Jimmy Dukes of Atlanta, Dean of the Extension Center System. "The only other prison program we have is at Angola Prison in Louisiana. It was a very positive day for the inmates and for their families."

Chaplain Eddie Smith said that several of the graduates had been transferred in the prison system and were not present for the graduation, but would receive their certificates.

Bob Hall, Director of New Orleans' Extension Center in Birmingham, served as coordinator for the program. "The men earned a certificate in biblical studies," Hall said. "Eight classes are required for the basic certificate. If an inmate upon release applies to our school and is accepted, he'll receive one hour of college credit for each course in either our associate or bachelors' degree program. If he's completed two certificates, he can use this work as his minor for the bachelor's degree."

Hall explained that other schools might offer credit, too. "It all depends on the school and the registrar," he said. "There is potential for these men receiving some college credit at other institutions if they've completed high school or have their GED high school equivalent."

The eight courses included surveys of both Old and New Testaments and intensive studies in a number of individual books. The courses required extensive reading, testing and research projects, and were taught by Dr. Michael Brooks of Judson College in Marion and Dr. David Thomas, retired director of Cahaba Mental Health in Selma.

Smith said that each of the eight classes had 20 - 25 students. Some students have been transferred to other prisons, some have been released and oth-

ers got into the program too late for the first graduation.

"Each student was asked to raise money to pay for the course," Smith said. "Families and churches helped with this. One graduate was sponsored by his Sunday School class in Tuscaloosa and they provided funds for his study."

Smith called the program "positive and up-beat," and said he's grateful the Tuscaloosa Baptist Association agreed to sponsor the seminary program.

And what of the future?

Dukes said that there are two options. One is to repeat the extension program for other inmates. The second option is to offer a faith-based certificate program in either biblical studies or Christian growth. This program will carry no academic credit but would be treated as continuing education.

Duke and Hall are still in conversation with Smith about the best option for the Bibb Correctional Facility. ■



Three of the six inmates to graduate from the Birmingham extension of the New Orleans Baptist Seminary. Terry Bush, Lee Lewis and Robert Williams.

Around the State Facility News

Alabama Corrections Academy

•08 July 2004: The ACA staff traveled to Atmore, Al. to conduct on-site physical testing at Fountain Correctional Facility. Sixty (60) applicants reported and participated in the written examination and physical ability test. Forty-seven (47) applicants passed all events of the physical ability test and thirteen (13) failed.

•19-29 July 2004: Lieutenant Bruce Chesser and Sergeant Brian Still greeted their Lateral Entry Program students. Four officers completed the two-week program.

•25 July 2004: The Academy staff greeted the third class of the year. Sixty (60) Correctional Officer Cadets were appointed to the class. Fifty-five (55) Correctional Officer Cadets reported for training on Sunday evening. Currently, there are forty-six (46) cadets assigned to Class 2004-03. The class is scheduled to graduate on 07 October 2004. The next class (2004-04) is scheduled to report to the Academy 05 September 2004 with a graduation date set for 18 November 2004.

•08-20 August 2004: Lieutenant Chesser and Sergeant Still traveled to Huntsville, Al to conduct a two-week Jail Management session at Madison County Metro Jail. Sixteen (16) jailers from various counties attended the training.

•11-13 August 2004: Correctional Officer Supervisor II training was conducted at the Corrections Academy. This is the first time the captains have received specialized training for advanced training. The thirty-six (36) captains received training by the Alabama State Department of Education. Mr. Jeff Langham, Education Specialist, conducted the course. The training was titled: The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.

•16-20 August 2004: Alabama Corrections Academy hosted the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) training on Staff Supervision of Corrections Professionals – Training for Trainers. Twenty-one (21) participants from the southern states attended the training. Lieutenant Bernard McCord (Lawson State/Donaldson), Lt. Eric Teske (Bibb), Sergeant Earl Cooper (Ventress), Sgt. Deidra Wright (Draper), Sgt. Elloit Sanders (Kilby), and Sgt. Dion Wasdin (Fountain) attended the training from ADOC. Also, participants from Florida, Kansas, Arkansas, and Alabama county jails attended the training.

•27 August 2004: The next COI On-site testing will be conducted at the Alabama Corrections Academy.

Alex City CWC

•21 minimum and community custody inmates graduated SAP on July 23, 2004.

•Alex City CWC welcomes COI Damien Pearson to our staff.

•Officer Pearson recently graduated from the Corrections Academy in Selma.

Atmore CBF

•On July 30, 2004, ACBF/WC participated in its first ever Employee Appreciation Day.

We the staff of ACBF/WC would like to take this time to publicly thank the warden at this institution for allowing us the opportunity to participate in such an event.

•Thank You Warden Sylvester Folks!

•During the Employee Appreciation Day, the employees enjoyed food and awards but mostly the social atmosphere created by the smiles of their fellow employees. The day was somewhat magic in that the staff could relax from the daily stress of everyday work and show their human side.

•Job Placement Officer Mark McGill, received a twenty- year service pin for twenty years of dedicated service and was also awarded Top Gun Honors for his shooting performance during the Month of May. Congratulations on your shooting honor and years of service. Keep on keeping on Mark, you will eventually get there.

•**Changes!!! Changes!!!! Changes!**

Since our last writings that appeared in the newsletter, many things have changed at ACBF/WC. The facility's staff, grounds, and structure has gone through some type of transformation.

•Please help us welcome Ms. Janice Styron, the newest member of the team at ACBF/WC, to the Department. Ms. Styron, who transferred from the Department of Human Resources, filled the position of ASAIL. Congratulations Ms. Styron on your new position and we welcome you to ACBF/WC.

•The entrance road to the facility from Hwy 21 has been enhanced by the construction of a red brick structure displaying a sign of ADOC's emblem with Atmore Community Based Facility boldly printed around it. Due to the craftsmanship, hard work and commitment of COI James Smith, and inmates of the facility this display was erected during the sweltering heat of July. Thanks Officer Smith for your tireless dedication in making this project an eye-catching success.

Another change that is occurring at this moment is the construction of two offices within the existing structure of ACBF. These offices are being constructed to house the Job Placement Officer who is currently sharing office space with the facility's assistant director and the Drug Treatment Counselor who is currently using any space that is not occupied. This office space will create a better working environment for both employers and allow them to be more effective in their daily duties.

Bibb Co. Correctional Facility

•See *Inmates Graduate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary* story on pg 12.

Birmingham Work Release

•During the past five months Warden I Steve Watson has been performing a dual role as Warden at both Birmingham Work Release and Alex City Work Release. Effective August 27, 2004, Warden Watson will return to his full time duties at Alex City Work Release.

•Captain Patricia Hood will assume the duties as Acting Warden at Birmingham.

—Donal Campbell, Commissioner

Bullock Community Based Facility

•A Birthday and congratulatory luncheon was held for Clerk Barry Brinson and COI Jerry Richards. Mr. Brinson celebrated his birthday and Officer Richards transferred to Staton Correctional Facility. Congratulations to both.

•A Celebration was held for Mr. Bruce Brown, Warden's secretary, he transferred to Mental Health. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.

•Bullock CBF wishes to welcome two new employees. Lisa Scott, ASAIL, she transferred to Bullock CBF from the Health Department and Officer Kenneth Ledbetter, who came to us from Tutwiler Correctional Facility. We welcome both o the Bullock CBF family.

•Congratulations are also in order for Warden Sandra Giles and Sgt. Brenda Marcus. The two recently received pins for 20-years of dedicated service.



Bullock County Correctional Facility



•We are proud to announce the following promotions, Gwendolyn Babers to Lieutenant, Larry Li-gon and Billy Davis to Sergeant. We also welcome back Sgt. Alberta Williams to B.C.C.F. (See attached pictures)



•We welcome the following new employees: Kimberly Weary, personnel assistant I and Edwina Calhoun, ASAI.

•Congratulations to the following Staff on receiving service pins, Savannah Fitzpatrick, Drug Counselor-5 years; Sgt. Michael Strickland - 10 years; Officer Eddie Turner - 15 years; Glenda Wallace, Mental Health Tech. - 15 years.

Camden CBF

•Recently, Officer Geraldine Davis was part of an Alabama Army National Guard transportation unit from Camden that was mobilized for active duty deployment in Iraq. Our last report was that Officer Davis' unit was at Ft. Steward, Georgia in prepara-

tion for deployment in Iraq. Please keep Officer Davis and all our other service men and women in your prayers and thoughts.

•Camden CBF celebrated with Officer Ronald Sigler and his wife in the birth of their daughter, Shaynia Rena Sigler, on 26 JUNE 2004. Little Miss Shaynia weighed in at 6 lbs. and 8 oz. Both mother and daughter are doing well.

•On 23 JULY 2004, the Officers and Staff of Camden CBF held an "Employee Appreciation Picnic" at Bridgeport Park in Camden. Good fellowship and great food was enjoyed by all who attended. Steward-I Azalia Bryant demonstrated her excellent culinary skills on the grill. Mr. Roy Hightower, Institutional Coordinator, was one of the guest in attendance.

•Sergeant Peter Allen won the election for the Camden City Council - District #1. Sgt. Allen had recently been appointed to fill a vacancy in the district but on 24 AUGUST 2004 he won the election to serve the people of his hometown.

Decatur CBF

•"Don't you HATE good-byes?"

It's always hard to say "goodbye," however; "goodbye" is exactly what happened at DCBF on August 20, 2004, at 11:30am. Employees and former employees gathered to say "Goodbye" to Ms. Sue Corum, who historically is the longest working employee at DCBF.

Yes, ADOC-DCBF employee, Ms. Sue Corum has decided to "split the sheets." She is transferring to the Department of Transportation < gasp > which is located closer to her residence.

Ms. Corum has worked for the State of Alabama for thirty years. She began her career with the State Employment Office. Following six and a half years there, Ms. Corum transferred to the Department of Corrections, specifically Decatur Work Release, where as stated above, she is presently the longest working DCBF employee. Ms. Corum has worked twenty-three years at Decatur Work Release. As a matter of fact, she was present during the "birth" of Decatur Work Release. Ms. Corum can reflect back to the day when there were 20 inmates on the count sheet!

Ms. Corum has worked for eight Wardens: Warden Larry Burton, the infamous Warden David Jones, Warden Joe Todd (and Ms. Becky), Warden Ralph Hooks, Warden Billy Mitchum, Warden Scott Sticker, Warden Ike Hadley and presently Warden Bettinna Carter. Ms. Corum would not tell me which Warden was her favorite; however, she hinted there were two favorites...one is retired and one is still working. (I know but I am not telling).

I have always been told two things about a Secretary:

Number One: The Secretary is the backbone of the operation.

Number Two: Never piss off the secretary.

Anyone who has worked at Decatur Work Release will attest that Ms. Corum is unequivocally one of the most outstanding employees with the Department of Corrections and she was the backbone of operations at DCBF. Recognition for her outstanding work was acknowledged in 1998 when Ms. Corum received the Commissioner's award for Professional Secretary of the Year. Ms. Corum has typed and corrected umpteen thousand incident reports. If the truth was admitted, I bet every officer, supervisor and/or warden has at one time or another said something to the effect of "Gee, Thanks! I sure am glad you caught that." <Can I get a witness?>

Everyone is going to miss Ms. Corum! Everyone at DCBF wants to wish Ms. Corum (Sue) the best.

• It's Celebration time!!!!!! - Welcome to DCBF/DCWC!

1. New Secretary:

DCBF/CWC welcomes Ms. Monica Gholston, ASAI, back to DCBF/CWC!!!!

Ms. Gholston recently left DCBF as an ASAI for a promotion to ASAI with the Board of Pardons and Parole in Madison County. Upon Ms. Corum's transfer, Ms. Gholston will be transferring to DCBF. < how is that for perfect timing?!>We are so happy to welcome Ms. Gholston back to DCBF.

2. New Officer:

DCBF/CWC welcomes Officer Darryl Hooks to DCBF/CWC!!!! Officer Hooks recently transferred from Red Eagle Honor Farm to our facility!

We are now one step, or should I say....one officer away from full staffing!

Welcome, welcome, and welcome Officer Hooks!

3. New Business Manager:

Last but not least.....We have a "newbie" at DCBF/CWC! Yes, Mr. Kenny Green, a new state employee, is starting his career as our business manager. Mr. Green, aka "Kenny G." is a "natural" to the business office. One would think he has been working here for years!

Summer of 2004 at DCBF/CWC.....

So, there you have it....."personnel changes" appears to have been the major action at DCBF/CWC this summer.

In closing, I must reflect back when in 1982, I was a mere twenty eight-year-old correctional officer trainee. The first person I met when I started work at "Decatur Work Release" was "Ms. Sue Corum." In the twenty-two years we have known each other, I never thought about "Sue" leaving. Sue's departure seems like a mystical void. Because so many of us here at DCBF/CWC's have worked more than fifteen

years with Sue, we all share the "void" effected by Sue's departure. Sue might not admit it but I bet Sue misses us as much as we miss her.

—Lt. Rene' Mason

Draper

•Since the last newsletter two more ISAP groups were completed along with a Crime Bill class.

•Marcella Smith, our Drug Treatment counselor traveled to Seattle, Wash. to a conference with the renowned Dr. Taton Samenow on the *Criminal Mind*, where she purchased his latest book—*Inside the Criminal Mind*, second edition.

•Congratulations to Officer Gerald Tippin on his promotion to Sergeant at Bibb County Correctional.

•Contratulations Officers Gregory Easter and Officer Robert McDay on 20 years of service; St. Hawthorne and Officer Elizabeth Sheffield on 15 years and Officer Kingston Bennett on 5 years of service with the Department.

•Gov. Bob Riley visited and walked through Draper on August 16th and talked to staff and inmates. The Governor also sat and ate spaghetti in the Chow Hall. He also visited the multipurpose building and talked to Mrs. Smith's Crime Bill class and Mrs. Boyd's and Mrs. Wheeler's SAP classes, asking and answering questions with the inmates.

•Birthday celebration went out to Warden James DeLaoach a "Nifty Fifty". See photo.



Easterling

•Chaplain Askew attended the annual CPO Conference in Washington, D.C. June 16-20, 2004.

•Easterling employees enjoyed Subs/Salads on June 30, 2004 for Officer's/Employee's Appreciation Day.

•CONGRATULATIONS! To COI Billy Davis on his promotion to Sergeant at Bullock Correctional Facility.

•A farewell/promotion celebration for Lt. Dexter Brown was held at Applebee's on July 16, 2004. Sgt. Brown was promoted to Lieutenant and transferred to Holman C. F.

•On July 8, 2004, Easterling staff joined other departmental staff and a host of family and friends

as we paid our last respects to Ms. Johnnie Pearl Moses during Home Going Services at Elam Baptist Christian Fellowship in Clayton, AL. We will truly miss our co-worker and friend. Her spirit and determination through all she endured should be an inspiration to all who knew her. Following is her farewell message to her co-workers and friends written on June 3, 2004.

THANKS FOR ALWAYS BEING THERE FOR ME

The world is moving faster now, we're on a changing course;

But you have helped me deal with life, you've been a stable force;

When I have had to follow new directions, you were there;

When the world was hard on me, you always seemed to care;

When nothing held together, made the slightest bit of sense;

You have always helped restore, my inner confidence.

Everyone needs someone, who's reliable and true;

Through the moments I've endured, I'm grateful there was you.

Thanks for always being there!

Johnnie Pearl Moses

•Administrative Staff and several visitors from other Classification/Drug Treatment departments enjoyed a retirement celebration at Applebee's in Ozark on July 28th for Kenneth "Gus" New, Classification Specialist. Mr. New retired on July 31, 2004.

•Congratulations to the following Easterling Employees who received service pins or were selected as Employees of the Quarter:

•Supervisor of the Quarter: Brian Mitchell, Psychological Associate II

•Officer of the Quarter: Stephanie Pryor, COI

•Employee of the Quarter: Annie Austin, Steward II

•Service Pins: 15 Yrs. D.C. Wilson, COSI; 10 Yrs. Linda Teal, ASAIII; James Leonguerro, COI; Valerie Burden, COI; Michelle Wilson, COI; 5 Yrs. Anthony Ellis, COI; Matthew Campbell, COI.

CONRATULATIONS! COI Darrick Rouse's son, Dario, received the MVP award for the Dixie Boys 13 yr. old division Little League World Series in Aiken, S.C. His team won the series for their division.

Elba Community Based Facility

•The following employees at Elba Community Based Facility were presented their service pins: Lt. Kieff Lambert 20 yr. pin and officer Billy Blue 10 yr. pin.

•Lt. Kieff Lambert was nominated and selected as Employee of the Quarter at Elba Community.

•July 27, 2004 Elba Community Based Facility hosted the Medical Advisory Council meeting at the center. Members of PHS medical staff and security staff from other facilities were represented.

•Sgt. Donnie Qualls who has been in Iraq for 9 month was on leave for 15 days and came by the center to visit. The staff enjoyed Sgt. Qualls visit and treated Sgt. Qualls to a going away luncheon on August 6, 2004 before he returned back to Iraq.

Fountain/J.O. Davis

•The Engineers Division recently began work on a security fence around J.O. Davis. Tony Cartwright, Ken Smith and Larry Kelly have been working extremely hard. Yes, I did say Larry Kelly. We may get a picture of that before the project is completed.

•The Fountain Search Party Team apprehended four different suspects for local Law Enforcement Agencies in the past six weeks. In each case, the suspects eluded authorities pursuant to an attempt to arrest the suspect or pursuant to a high-speed chase in which the suspect was involved in a jump and run. On one particular suspect, the Team was called out at 7:30PM and the catch was made the next morning at approximately 8:00 AM. The Team ran the man all night. Members of the Team are Capt. Mickey Mustin, Sgts. Andy Braddock and Donnie Mack. These men are commended for their service to the community.

•Fountain is proud to announce the recent promotion of Robert Gandy to the rank of Lieutenant. Lt. Gandy is a career employee with G.K. Fountain. Lt. Gandy has been with the ADOC and G.K. Fountain 19 plus years. He is well deserving of the promotion.

•Mr. Johnny Portis was selected for promotion to COII effective Sept. 4, 2004. Mr. Portis has been employed with the ADOC and G.K. Fountain 6 years. We expect Mr. Portis to have a positive impact at this facility.

•Sgt. Joseph Anderson has returned from Iraq. Sgt. Anderson spent approximately 17 months in Iraq. We are excited about his return and we appreciate his service to our nation.

The G.K. Fountain Farm has harvested over 57,000 pounds of potatoes. Potatoes have been available for all institutions that want them. The farm is currently involved in harvesting peas for ACI. The Fountain Line-squads have harvested over 2,400 bushels of peas and we are approximately half finished.

•Employees of the Month: Officer Barry Dunning - Security; Mr. James McKinney - Support Supervisor of the Quarter: Lt. Robert Gandy

Frank Lee Youth Center



•On August 8, 2004, Warden John Cummins II reached another milestone with the ADOC. Warden Cummins received his 25-year service pin. Congratulations Warden Cummins on 25 years of dedicated service.



•Congratulations Officer Jerome Osborne on receiving your 10-year service pin. Officer Osborne reached his 10 year milestone on July 30, 2004, and is pictured receiving it from Captain Horace Burton, Jr.

•Two SAP classes graduated this summer at FLYC. On July 9, 2004, Drug Treatment Counselor Bill Evans' class graduation. On July 29th, Drug treatment Counsellor Doug Farris graduated his class. "Way to go, guys".

•On Aug. 19, FLYC began its 2nd four-week Relapse Program. Looks like an on going deal.

Holman Correctional Facility

•Service pins were awarded to the following personnel:

CONGRATULATIONS—On Extended Years of Service, Luverne Pierce, COII – 15 years; Robert Leatherwood, COI – 5 years; James Sizemore, COI – 5 years.

Congratulations to each of these employees for their years of service to the Department.

•Congratulations are also due to the following employees for being recognized by their peers for outstanding work:

- John Crow, COSI- Supervisor of the Quarter
- Wayne James, COI - Empl. of the Month - May
- Jerome Webster, COI-Empl. of the Month – June
- Jerry Odom, CO -Empl. of the Month – July

•Congratulations to Dexter Brown who has just been promoted to the Lt. position here at Holman. We expect great things from Lt. Brown!

•Chaplain Browder Ministries brought their message to the Holman inmates for the second year on June 24, 25, and 26. The ministry culminated on Saturday the 26th with another barbecue cookout for all the Holman inmates. Each inmate was served a half of chicken, hot dog, potato salad, baked beans, cole slaw, doughnut, and ice cream. Hopefully, the ministry touched the lives of some of the inmates and will help them to lead their lives in a positive direction.

•We have welcomed James Sizemore, Gregory Stoll, and Bobby Kimbril back from their tour of active duty. We are glad to have them back safe and sound.

•We would like to welcome aboard two cadets as they prepare to attend the training academy, John Rocker and Daniel Gorum. Our welcome has also been extended to Cynthia McCovery, COI who has re-hired and joined us here at Holman.

•The administrative staff here at Holman wanted to show all employees how much they are appreciated for the jobs they do, so an Employee Appreciation Day was held on August 25. Hamburgers, hot dogs, fish, and french fries were cooked and served to all employees. Door prizes donated by local area merchants were given away. We realize how trying it is to get the job done everyday with the staff shortage and ever increasing workloads. Thanks to everyone who shoulders the burden of responsibility to get it done!

Kilby

•Congratulations to Warden Terrance McDonnell and Captain Bobby Barrett for winning the Top Gun Award at Advanced Training in July 2004. They were the "Best of the Class".

•Congratulations to Richard Naile on his promotion to Lt. at Elmore Correctional Facility. Lt. Naile was honored with a going away party on July 22, 2004. He received nice gifts from the staff and supervisors. We will miss him at KCF. Now Elmore's staff will have to contend with his pranks and jokes! Good Luck Lt. Naile, Elmore has a "Good One".

•Service pens were given to COI Patrick Moss for 10 years of service, Steward Willie Sanford for 10 years of service and to Denise Carr-De-Rumas, Psych. Assoc. I for 5 years of service.

•Lt. Tchernavia Blackmon was chosen as "Supervisor of the Quarter" in July 2004 for the prior quarter. Lt. Blackmon has done an outstanding job

on Second Shift.

•Kilby wishes to thank Sgt. Michael Jackson of Kilby Advanced Training Center and COI Charles Fuller of Kilby for going above and beyond their regular duties and teaching a block of training in Cell Extraction. A good phrase to describe both is "Experience, Experience, Experience".

•Kilby would like to welcome Sgt. Daniel Rudolph. He came to us from Childersburg. Welcome Aboard Sgt. Rudolph.

•The Investigation and Intelligent Department is completing their move to the Criminal Justice Center. Finally, Medical Records will have a place to store their old files.

Limestone

•Limestone Correctional Facility welcomes the following new employees:

Anna Avery-Classification Specialist; Mike Bowdin-Farm Superintendent; Wanda Freeman-ASA I

•Congratulations to the following: Officer Jeffery Baldwin who was promoted to Sergeant.

•Congratulations to Sergeant Michelle Pettay who was promoted to Lieutenant.

•Employees of the Quarter: Support-Charles Baggett, Chaplain; Security-Anthony Brooks.

•The following personnel received service pins:

20 Year Service Pin: James Bailey, COI; Doward Bassham, COI.; Bradley Carter, COII; Dorothy Goode, COSII; David Tully, COSI.

15 Year Service Pin: Jeffery Baldwin, COII; Jimmy Heathington, COI; Rodney Heathington, COI; Reuben Strong, COI; Edward Martin, COI; Deborah Stutts, Class. Spec.; Robin Swain, COI.

10 Year Service Pin: Michael Anderson, COI; Anthony Brooks, COI; Lavance Griffin, COI; Gene McClaran, COI; Yolanda Todd, COI; Terry Walker, COI.

5 Year Service Pin: Arthur Edwards, COI; Larry Johnson, COI; Stephen Langford, COI; Willie Rickard, COI; Hardie Short, Steward II; Terrelia Tippins, ASA I

•Since assuming picture taking on Visitation days, the ICF Fund has grossed \$30,371.35 in 18 months.

•Limestone Correctional Facility is mourning the loss of twenty-year veteran Lieutenant Darrell Britt Hendon. Lieutenant Hendon completed his earthly journey June 26, 2004. Survivors included his wife, Janice Hendon and three sons, Chadwick Hendon (who is a COI), Jonathan Hendon, and Joshua Hendon. In addition to these survivors, his LCF family survives Lieutenant Hendon. He started his Corrections career as a COI April 27, 1984 and quickly gained the respect of his fellow officers and employees as he performed his duties in an admi-

able manner at West Jefferson Correctional Facility. On October 27, 1984, Britt Hendon transferred to Limestone Correctional Facility. He served as a COI, Transfer Officer and ICS Officer. March 29, 1986 Britt Hendon was promoted to Sergeant. January 30, 1988, Sergeant Hendon was promoted to Lieutenant. At the time of his death, Lieutenant Hendon served as the First Shift Segregation Commander where he was regarded as a true professional, showing firmness and fairness in his dealings with each person with whom he came in contact. The final services for Lieutenant Hendon were held Tuesday June 29, 2004 at Greenview Memorial Chapel and burial at Tri-Cities Memorial Gardens with Limestone Chaplain Charles Baggett servicing and the Limestone C.E.R.T. Team as pallbearers. Lieutenant Hendon was dedicated and laid to rest in his ADOC uniform.

Loxley WR/CWC

•The summer of 2004 has been a busy time for Loxley WR/CWC. While the inmate population was at a reduced level, numerous repairs, projects and painting was scheduled to enhance the facility. The maintenance department under the supervision of David Kirby, PMS, worked long hours to accomplish these improvements while also assisting Mobile WR/CWC with their repair and maintenance needs.

•The facility has maintained the highest inmate gross salaries for ADOC facilities under the supervision of Lt. Syletta January, Job Placement Officer, and the lowest raw food cost under the supervision of Richard Green, Steward II, during this reporting period.

•Quarterly inmate supervisors training was provided during July at the Prichard Municipal Complex. City, County, State and Federal entities scheduled supervisors for the required refresher training course in compliance with AR 320; Inmate Work Squad Safety Near Roadways.

•Loxley WR/CWC welcomed Officer Robert Gipson to the staff on 07/26/04 and Steward I Erica Boone on 08/23/04. Congratulations and appreciation was extended to the following employees for their years of service to the ADOC; Steward Richard Green - 5 years, Sergeant Joseph Deese - 20 years; Sergeant James Riley - 20 years, Sergeant Valerie Howell - 20 years; and Officer Joseph Legrone - 5 years.

•Warden James Reynolds has been actively involved in the ADOC Strategic Planning Committee meetings during the summer months helping to develop mission, vision and value statements along with a plan of action to accomplish each.

Mobile Work Release/Comm. Work Center

•The Inmate Work Squad Safety Near Roadway Orientation was held on July 13, 2004, at the A.J. Coor Municipal Complex in Prichard, Alabama. Prichard City Councilwoman Ossia Edwards hosted the session. Lt. January of Loxley Work Release/Comm. Work Center and Sgt. Adline Guley of Mobile Work Release/Comm. Work Center were the presenters.

•We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Warden Derrick J. Carter back from active duty. We would also like to thank Captain Gary A. Hetzel, from Loxley Work Release/Comm. Work Center, for the great job he did in Warden Carter's absence.



Warden Derrick Carter presenting Lt. Steve Cureton with his 15 yrs. Service pin.



Warden Derrick Carter presenting Captain Gary Hetzel with letter of appreciation and plaque. Brenda Smith, Secretary making preparations (below).



Montgomery Community Work Center

•The following is submitted from the Montgomery Community Work Center for inclusion in the September Corrections Newsletter:

•We are thankful for the safe return of COI Curtis Casey and welcome him back from duty in Iraq.

•Welcome to the staff of Montgomery Work Center to COI Annetta Smith, transfer from Tutwiler Prison, COI Herbert Shine, transfer from Staton Correctional Facility and COI Samuel Brown, transfer from Kilby Correctional Facility.

•On July 30, 2004, Montgomery Community Work Center was invited to participate in the 1st Annual Softball Tournament at Kilby Correctional Facility where MCWC defeated Frank Lee. In the 1st round MCWC defeated Kilby Correctional Facility. MCWC was to play Red Eagle for the Championship, however the game was postponed due to inclement weather. MCWC was invited to play at Staton where MCWC lost to Red Eagle in the 1st round on August 21, 2004.

•SGT Smiley invited us to Red Eagle to play the championship game. Undaunted by our loss to Red Eagle, we accepted the challenge and came home victorious.

•Warden Daniels and the staff of Montgomery Community Work Center would like to extend our sincere thanks to the staff and players at the facilities whose hard work made this tournament possible.

We look forward to hosting our own tournament in the near future. Invitations will be mailed.

Red Eagle



•Red Eagle says goodbye to Sgt. Charles Wilcutt who retires because of a medical disability. Sgt. Wilcutt was the Assistant Shift Commander of the Third Shift from June 15, 2002 until his retirement June 30, 2004. Sgt. Wilcutt will be missed.

•Lt. Edwin Lane receives his 20-year service pin. Lt. Lane is the Second Shift Commander here at Red Eagle and sets high standards for his shift, Red Eagle Honor Farm and the Alabama Department of Corrections. (see photo below.)



•Lt. Billy Pittman successfully achieved the status of TOP GUN for Class S04-16 at the Draper Training Center on August 16, 2004. Lt. Pittman received a letter of appreciation for Warden C. E. Boutwell pointing out that his performance and dedication of duty prompted this recognition. Lt. Pittman's recognition is gratifying and is in accordance with our highest professional standards. Lt. Pittman is Red Eagles Third Shift Commander. (photo below)



St. Clair Correctional Facility

•The Federal Bureau of Prisons visited St. Clair to assess the practicality of introducing lethal fences into the Federal System. They also took a tour of the facility and were impressed with the discipline of the ADOC inmates.

•The Guiding Light Church held a Promise Keepers service. The St. Clair Alabama Volunteers in Corrections (STAVIC) held a banquet for inmate volunteers. The Evangelism Explosion (EE) group had their graduation dinner. The Joyce Myers Ministry delivered a hygiene gift bag and a religious book to all inmates.

•Captain Robert Simmons and Captain Richard Carter attended training in Selma. The Captains advised that the training was outstanding and could be implemented with effective results at this facility.

•An Employee of the Quarter luncheon was held at Jim-N-Nicks Restaurant. Latisha Hawkins, Payroll Clerk, was the support employee and CO1 Trent Bartlett was the security employee. Congratu-

lations to these outstanding employees.

•The Health Department conducted a cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure check for employees. The evaluation prompted many employees to make appointments with their personal physicians. Several employees above attended the NIC workshop on staff wellness.

•The Long Distance Dads graduation was held at the facility. The National Director, Mr. Marcos Torres, was the guest speaker. Mr. James Sherrod, Prison Oversight Committee, attended the event.

•Warden Ralph Hooks attended a Homeland Security workshop in Elmore County. CO1 Woodall attended a Critical Incident Stress Management workshop at Limestone CF. Warden II Archie Garrett attended the Strategic Planning workshop in Selma.

•Congratulations to our new employees: Mr. Kevin Sandlin, Repair and Maintenance Supervisor and Ms. Deborah Estes, Drug Treatment Counselor. We also welcome the following recent Academy graduates: Willie Sillmon; Joshua Stewart; Kenneth Patton.

•We honor our Military employees who are serving their country: CO1 Mark Taft; CO1 Billy Ingram; CO1 Joshua Stewart; CO1 Van Posey; Cadet Deverett Howard; CO1 Billy Warren will soon be leaving

•The following St. Clair personnel received service pins—

20 Year Pins: Sgt. Gary Malone; Sgt. Royce Brown; CO1 Donald Attaway; CO1 Jack Box; CO1 Johnny Gladden; CO1 Jackie Jimmerson; CO1 Gene Kelly; CO1 Jacky Mashburn; CO1 Larry Phillips; CO1 Tommy Poe; CO1 Greg Stokes; CO1 Lanny Sumner; CO1 Perry Wilson.

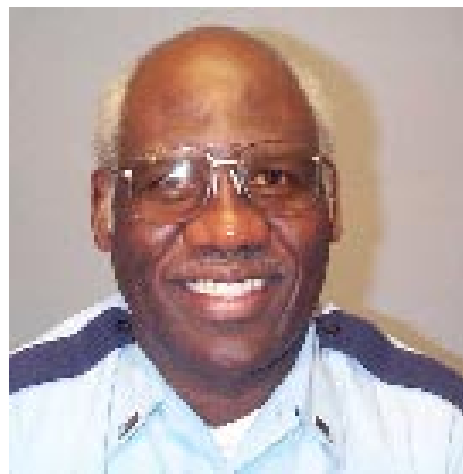
15 Year Pins: CO1 Reba Morris; CO1 Kevin O'Connell; CO1 Beverly Warren.

10 Year Pins: CO1 Larry Baker; Mr. Boyd Derrick; CO1 Annette Lashore; CO1 Michael McCleese

5 Year Pins: CO1 Ernest Gant; CO1 John Mason; Ms. Barbara White; Ms. Shawana Young.

Staton

•**University of Alabama Express Gratitude for Tours**—Staton has hosted many tours this year and a number of letters of appreciation have been received from the touring agencies. Dr. Ida M. Johnson, Professor, of the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Alabama, expressed that the tours are very educational for college students. She stated that she appreciated the experience, knowledge and the extra effort of the staff at Staton Correctional Facility. Dr. Johnson's department has toured with criminal Justice students from the University of Alabama for the past ten years and she hope that this service will continue. Staton applaud Lt. Edward Robinson and his staff for a job well done.



Lt. Edward Robinson, Institutional PIO



•Staton Correctional Facility welcomes Ms. Victoria Baxley as their newly appointed Business manager. Ms. Baxley has worked for the State for 25 years and transferred to Staton from the Alabama Beverage Control Board. Please welcome Ms. Baxley to Corrections.

•Staton Awards Service Pins:



Officer Yvonne Ray, 25 Years



Paul Bivens, Psy. Associate, 20 Years



Officer Henry Keener, 20 Years

Staton Correctional Facility is very proud to present and award these long-term employees their service pins.

Tutwiler Prison for Women

•Tutwiler hosted Federal District Court July 21, 2004 inside the institution.

This is the first time a sitting Federal District Court Judge has held court inside an Alabama prison facility. The courts normally send a Federal Magistrate Judge. Judge Thompson presided over the fairness hearing Laube' v. Donal Campbell.

•Warden Deese has a new secretary, Deborah Bates. We know that Mrs. Bates will do a great job at Tutwiler.

•Promotions & Congratulations:

Chris Wilson – Plant Maintenance Supervisor II; Donald Nearer – Correctional Officer II; George Richards – Plant Maintenance Supervisor II; Mary Harvey – Correctional Officer II.

The staff at Tutwiler congratulates each of them and prays for their great success.

•Transfers: Jessie Johnson – Correctional Offi-

cer II was promoted at Bibb; Katrina Moore – Correctional Officer II from Donaldson Corr. Facility.

•Tutwiler held Mental Health Training August 11 – August 12, 2004. More than thirty (30) Personnel attended the training. J. F. Ingram Trade School held summer graduation, thirty-one (31) students were honored.

•Tutwiler is Getting a Face-Lift: Many improvements are going on due to the Laube' case. Look for Open House Notification Coming Soon.

Ventress Correctional Facility

•Ventress Correctional Facility celebrated "Correctional Officer Appreciation Day" June 9th, 2004. The Administration & all three shifts celebrated with delightful meals varying from Barbecue Chicken & Ribs to Fried Fish & Chicken along with many "lip-smackin" delectable side items & deserts. We would like to thank Warden Giles and all supervisors for sponsoring this noble and deserving event. And a special thanks to all our Correctional Officers here at Ventress Correctional Facility.

•Congratulations to Sgt. Carolyn Longmire (1st Shift) on the birth of her granddaughter, Angel Leah Terry 6 lbs. 8 oz. at 19" long. Angel was born July 02, 2004 in Jacksonville, FL.

•We would like to welcome aboard the following new employees:

Radio Operator Dalton Jeffery Moore of Ozark, AL; Drug Treatment Counselor Treva L. Thornton of Clayton, AL; 2nd Shift ASAI Linda Jones of Troy, AL.

•Congratulations to the following employees: Lonza Pinckard, COI - 20 years of service; Annette Flowers, Steward - 25 years of service

•Please keep Officer Felicia Williams in your thoughts and prayers. She recently underwent emergency surgery following an unexpected illness.

•Maintenance Supervisor, John R. Watson mourns the loss of his mother, Mrs. Mary Magaline Watson.

•Sgt. Alex Moses (3rd Shift) mourns the loss of his sister, Johnnie Pearl Moses. Ms. Moses worked at Ventress Correctional Facility for many years as a Classification Specialist. Ms. Moses passed away July 13, 2004 at her home following an extended illness. The Moses Family would like to extend their heart-felt appreciation for all acts of kindness shown, during their time of bereavement.

•Pictured is Officer Martha Green (3rd Shift) with Darwin Ham of The World Champion NBA Detroit Pistons. Officer Green was vacationing in Saginaw, Michigan when she encountered Mr. Ham. ■

Hurricane Relief

August 19, 2004

Dear Alabama Department of Corrections Employees:

I am sure all of you know of the catastrophic damage Hurricane Charley caused in Southwest Florida. Thousands of people are homeless and electricity and water are still not available to most.

Nine correctional institutions were damaged and thousands of inmates were moved trying to insure their safety. These efforts were successful and due to the complete dedication of staff, no inmates were lost. However one hundred and twenty-five (125) staff homes, including all contents, were demolished and another one hundred sixty-one (161) were seriously damaged. Nineteen staff members are still unaccounted for.

Secretary Crosby has done everything imaginable to lend assistance, but funds are needed for immediate relief while insurance claims are filed and FEMA support is accomplished.

If you, or your staff, would like to be a part of this fundraising effort to provide financial assistance to our needy staff, please make your contribution immediately via overnight mail to:

*Corrections Foundation
2601 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2500*

In 1996, the Florida Legislature authorized the establishment of the Corrections Foundation, as the not-for-profit direct support organization for the Department of Corrections. As such, we are a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization. If a copy of our tax-exempt certificate is needed or if the tax-exempt number is needed, you may contact Foundation staff at (850) 410-4475 or (850) 410-4305. All contributions will be placed in a special fund and used solely for hurricane relief. No funds will be used for overhead or any other purpose.

Thank you so much for your support of this effort.

Sincerely,


Louie L. Wainwright, President
Florida Corrections Foundation

Cont'd Articles:

cont'd from pg 3: Gov. Riley Visits Alabama Prisons

respond if a dangerous situation occurred, explained his use of IPC: Interpersonal Communication skills, useful in diffusing certain situations. Riley seemed more than satisfied with the answer given.

As the four-prison tour came to its conclusion Governor Riley made several observations. "I didn't know what to expect," said Riley. "The facilities are old but they are clean and well cared for. And the level of professionalism among staff is extremely high. The one request I had today was not for additional prisons, not for additional bed space, but for additional staff. 250 to 300 inmates with one correctional officer is assuming an unacceptable burden for this state."

Riley pledged to work with ADOC Commissioner Donal Campbell over the next year to address several staffing issues including the immediate need for well-trained personnel. ■ 

cont'd from pg 10: Finding Love Inside
out of gangs.

Some prisoners sing. Some weep. William Barr apologizes. "I was out on the streets when I should have been with y'all. If I would have been the man I was supposed to have been and did the things I was supposed to do, none of this would be happening right now," Barr, 33, from Bessemer told his girlfriend and sons.

"Will and Dominique, I want you to know I love you. I'm going to be there for you. Whenever you need me, all you have to do is just ask. Send me a letter. Accept a call. Come see me," Barr says.

His boys are 5 and 6. He says he's trying to be a big part of their lives. He is serving life without parole for robbery, assault and manslaughter.

Barr's father died when he was 8. "I wish he had been there to raise me and teach me what a man was supposed to be," he says after the taping.

For Bobby France, making the tape was like a visit with his children. It made him nervous.

"Don't follow the path that I'm taking," he told his 14-year-old son, Cory. For his 23-year-old daughter, Patrice, France has nothing but praise. She's made it to college. "I can't even describe to you how proud I am of you. You've done things I never did," said France, 41, from Opelika, serving a life sentence for rape. Locked up for 13 years so far, France rarely sees his children. But he says their relationship has blossomed because of the class. He's getting more letters. His children tell him they love him, despite his troubled past.

Recently, Cory came from Opelika for a visit. He couldn't get into the prison because of security issues. The boy was not on France's visiting list, because his mother fears listing an incarcerated man as his father could hurt her government assistance. "On the birth certificate, she didn't put me down as the father because of the welfare situation," France said. The last time the boy came to visit was 1999, but he was turned away because of a dress code violation, France said.

Yet he's upbeat that they at least made the drive, and he won't complain about the rigidity of prison life. "When he sees the tape, it's going to be just like a visit to him," France said.

A new man

Condrey, the volunteer teacher, hands out certificates on graduation day.


About 40 men sit in rows on the white plastic chairs and listen to Condrey's speech-sermon. He talks about the Bible and Jesus and draws lessons from his own past as a lost wanderer until he was 47. "I came to Christ as a drunk, arrogant son-of-a-gun, and I've still got some of that," he said. "But I'm not the man I used to be. Praise the Lord."

He made his share of mistakes as a macho Marine, expecting his wife to take care of the children, he said. Everyone's made mistakes. "Your children are at great risk for being prisoners. That's just a statistic. Nothing personal," Condrey says.

He tells them this program is here for one reason - to make them better fathers. "You may be the sorriest son-of-a-gun in the world, but a child looks at you and thinks, 'That's my Daddy.'"

After the ceremony, Truss reflects on lessons from the class. Before, he thought being a father was all about buying his children what they wanted: ice cream, video games.

The swirl of drugs and money tainted his connection to them. He intimidated them. "I didn't even think because I was so struggling with addiction, and I wanted the money," he said. "When I just sit and look at my daughter one day, she's fixing to be a teenager and I'm 31 now . . . Man, life ain't just about this. It's about teaching them how to grow, mentally and physically," he said. He worries about what the girls will tell teachers and friends about where he is. "I'm scared they'll start knowing 'my father's gone and he ain't here to support me,' . . . they'll say, 'I hate you, because you did this to me.'" So he's sped up the letters, the coloring books, "like little Winnie-the-Pooh things," he said. He hopes it's not too late.

"My father - it's like a curse - that I did the same thing he did to my kids." ■ 

I'M GLAD YOU'RE IN MY DASH

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From the beginning... to the end.
He noted that first came her date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years (1944
- 1994)

For that dash represents all the time
That she spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own,
The cars...the house...the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard.
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real,
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile that
Might only last a little while.
So, when your eulogy's being read
With your life's actions to rehash,
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?

INSIDE THE FENCE

Governor Riley tours five prisons and sees first-hand some of the increasing problems faced by Officers and Inmates alike. See a collection of articles and photos of the Governor's tour *inside the fence*.



Governor Riley spends time with Captain Matthews at Elmore Correctional Facility.



JUST FOR LAUGHS

A man lived alone in his small home in Ireland. He wanted to dig his potato garden, but it was very hard work, and he was very old and frail. His only son, who would normally have helped him, was in prison for bank robbery. The old man wrote a letter to his son and mentioned his predicament.

Shortly, he received this reply: "For HEAVEN'S SAKE Dad... whatever you do, don't dig up that garden...that's where I buried all the money!"

At 4 a.m. the very next morning, two dozen police officers showed up at the old man's house and dug up the entire garden---without finding a single cent.

Confused and concerned, the old man wrote another note to his son telling him what happened and asking him what to do next.

His son's reply was: "Now you can just go ahead and plant your potatoes, Dad. It's the best I could do from here."

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Articles or suggestions for
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are invited.

They should be addressed to:

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